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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
MASAYUKI TANABE) Examiner: B. Souw
Application No.: 09/678,255) Group Art Unit: 2881
Filed: October 3, 2000)
For: OPTICAL INSTRUMENT, AND)
DEVICE MANUFACTURING)
METHOD) March 6, 2003

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents are also enclosed.

Applicant submits that the listed foreign language documents may be considered relevant because they were cited by the Japanese Patent Office in a Japanese counterpart application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicant has enclosed English language abstracts for the Japanese documents, which were obtained from a commercial database, and a partial translation of Japanese Laid-Open Patent Application No. 11-87230. In addition, Applicant notes that the cited U.S. Patent is in the same family as the other listed Japanese application (No. 08-055774).

FORMAL MATTERS

We also enclose a check for the required fee of \$180.00 to cover the Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.97(c)(2).

CONCLUSION

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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